

# TOC H JOURNAL

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## *Allswell that Ends Well—I.*

Nearly twenty years ago a book appeared called *The Honeywood File*, in which the author, H. D. Cresswell, used the well-tried method of fictitious correspondence for the purpose of instruction. Through the medium of letters passing between an architect, his client, the builder and many others he describes how a house came into being; he furnishes his own comments at intervals. The detailed picture thus painted of the personalities, technique and pitfalls involved is not only entertaining but of real value to any practising architect. It is hoped that the present series of articles, frankly following a similar method, may help the practising architects of Toc H, those who have to plan and build a new unit, build it into the general structure of our movement and use it to full purpose.

For the benefit of the literal-minded it is well to say at the outset that they will search the Toc H list in vain for the South Midlands Area or a unit called Allswell, and that no members—unless by an accident unknown to the writer—bear the names of the persons in the story. Some of the incidents may have happened dozens of times in Toc H history, others perhaps never before. In other words this is fiction—but that does not prevent it from representing everyday fact.

CHARLES BRICK TO GENERAL SECRETARY, H.Q.

DEAR SIR,

When I joined the R.A.F. in '41 I contacted Toc H at Bicester and used to go down to your Club most nights for a cuppa char. We had some good times but I didn't think any more about it till we got to North Africa. I got to know your chap at Maison Blanche real well and we had a proper crack one evening about Toc H and after the war. I promised him to come along—that's years ago and here we are. Since then I've

married a fine girl (ex-W.A.A.F.) and found myself in a tidy job, after some rather rough times. So now there's no excuse to put off Toc H and I want to get weaving.

In case you don't know our town its a small place hardly more than a village and nobody bar me seems to have heard of Toc H. I've been talking to a pal who works in our firm and he says he will stand in with me for a start. My friend's name is Fred Burly and he thinks there's others will come along when we have something to show.

How do we open up? There's no building in the place that we could make into a club same as Maison Blanche. Fred and I have told the tale to a good few other chaps already and we are thinking of holding a little meeting with them soon. I don't feel I know nearly enough about it yet. Can you help me? I am keen enough and I hope you won't turn me down.

Yours faithfully,

GENERAL SECRETARY TO CHARLES BRICK.

Dear Brick,

I am very glad indeed to have your letter. I have never been in Allswell, but I see there is a gap on the map in that district, so far as Toc H is concerned, and I hope you can help us to fill it. There is no question of "turning you down", as you call it; we want your help and will give you all the backing we can.

Allswell lies in the South Midlands Area of Toc H, and I am asking the Area Secretary, Philip Marvell, to get in touch with you as soon as he can. He will put you wise about the first steps. Meanwhile I enclose one or two pamphlets and wish you and Fred Burly all the best in your venture.

Yours sincerely,

GENERAL SECRETARY TO AREA SECRETARY.

Dear Flip,

I hope the trouble with your nose is not serious.

I have had a letter from an ex-Serviceman, Charles Brick, 27, Alabaster Terrace, Allswell, about forming a unit there. He seems very keen but obviously has no experience of peace-time Toc H. Will you make the necessary contacts?

Yours,

### A Spot of Bother

*At this point there was a technical hitch: the Area Secretary followed his nose into hospital for ten days. And Charles Brick couldn't wait.*

#### ADVT. IN THE *Allswell Advertiser*

TOC H.—There will be a meeting in the Mayor's Parlour next Tuesday at 8 p.m. with a view to starting Toc H locally. All townspeople, especially ex-Service, welcome. The Mayor has kindly consented to take the chair.

#### MRS. C. BRICK TO A FRIEND.

Dear Peggy,

It seems ages since you were here, come again soon. Charlie and I are going along fine. Last week the firm gave him a rise, they seem to think a lot of him for all he's a new man. Also this month or more he has took up with a new thing called Toc H. Isn't it a funny name? I can't explain it, so you'll have to ask him next time you come. Well anyway Charlie and Fred Burly (you remember Fred—thickset jolly fellow, such a hearty laugh) get together over it all their spare time. You know what Charlie is, can't sit down when he has got an idea on his mind. They have been out round the town nights and nights calling on chaps to tell them about it. I pull Charlie's leg about asking for a separation, because it nearly amounts to that already, I tell him. All the same there's many worse things he might take up (did you see the bit in the *Advertiser* about poor Joe Hinker and the police court last week?) and I'm glad Charlie is so keen about it.

Charlie's a fast worker and he has had a public meeting already, in the Town Hall. Only fancy that! He has been the blue-eyed boy of old Mr. Snacker, the coal-merchant, who's Mayor this year, ever since he was in his Sunday School. And so when he (that's Charlie) talked to him about Toc H he—Mr. Snacker I mean—offered to throw a meeting in the Mayor's Parlour and take the chair. We had Gladys Bluebill singing a few songs at the start, just to cheer things up a bit, I can't bear her voice. There was only 13 people there, it was that shocking wet night, and more than half was women and Toc H is only for men.

My dear, it was *awful*! Poor Charlie made a speech, he's never made one not in a Town Hall before. He sat up half the night before and used up nearly all the new writing pad you sent me for Christmas, writing it and tearing it up. I told him it was jolly good, to cheer him up. There was a nasty old man there asked a lot of questions at the end and Charlie hadn't got all the answers. The poor dear has been terribly down ever since but he won't give up, it isn't his way.

Tell your Mum I tried that baking powder . . .

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Affectly. yours,

THE RECTOR OF ALLSWELL TO GENERAL SECRETARY.

Dear Sir,

I regret that it is my duty to write to you about a local manifestation of Toc H. I know little of your movement but have hitherto regarded it as worthy. A young man named Brick in this town, probably a Nonconformist, has, I understand, lately been canvassing some of the young people here, including one or two of my own lads, on your behalf and last night held a public meeting in the Town Hall, at which the Mayor—in my view most inadvisedly—presided.

My reason for intervening in this matter is that I was neither consulted beforehand nor invited to the meeting, which, owing to a previous engagement, I could not have attended. I have always understood that your society has a well-meaning, if vague, connection with the Christian religion, and as Rector of the Parish I cannot but regard this failure to approach me as a studied courtesy.

Yours truly,

*The "studied courtesy" of the Rector's own letter is not unique in Toc H history but happily rare. Charlie Brick has inadvertently dropped one and steps must be taken to replace it.*

GENERAL SECRETARY TO AREA SECRETARY.

Dear Flip,

We are all glad to hear that you are out of hospital and that it turned out to be only a minor operation. I hope you are going easy for a few days at least.

I enclose a copy of an uncomfortable letter we have received from the Rector of Allswell. I have written him a short line, but perhaps you will call on him when you are next in that direction and smooth him out a bit. Sorry to put this on your plate just now!

Yours,

MRS. C. BRICK TO A FRIEND.

Dear Peggy,

Thanks ever so for your long letter. I showed Charlie the bit about our Toc H meeting and he wasn't to worry. It cheered him up a lot. Actually things have taken a turn since then. As you seem interested I'll tell you.

Well on the Monday week after that awful meeting the secretary of Toc H called at our house. He is the big noise round here, a gentlemanly sort of man called Marvell. He comes from Carsington, so you may know him. Charlie was just sat down to his tea in the kitchen. I was so vexed because, being wash day, there was things hanging on the line in the kitchen and C. brought him right in there. However Mr. Marvell sat down, easy as you please, and had a cup of tea with us. Lucky I had just made some of those square buns and he said they were the best ever. As soon as polite I pushed the men into the sitting room and left them at it hammer and tongs for a good hour. Then they both came back and Mr. Marvell said could he take Charlie off in his car right then to a meeting at Snitchcombe. I said well, since he married Toc H, who am I to say anything? and we all had a laugh. Snitchcombe is a tidy step, as you know, and when Mr. Marvell dropped Charlie on his way back I was in my beauty sleep. But he woke me up and seemed so happy about the meeting that I couldn't say anything cross. As for Mr. Marvell he can't have got home to Carsington till well after midnight. He's married too. He left some books behind about this Toc H and Charlie is sitting in reading them this minute, deaf to the world. O these men! But we both like Mr. Marvell, he's like an old friend already and I'll feed him my buns any time he is this way.

Love to your Mum—How's her asthma?

Your affectionate,

FROM THE SAME TO THE SAME.

*The letter opens with a long piece about a paper pattern for a summer frock, highly technical and not to our purpose. And then :—*

P.S.—O, I forgot when I wrote—the Rector of the Parish Church seems to have sent an awkward letter to Toc H in London about not being asked to that Town Hall meeting. Of course we don't go to his Church being Baptists and so Charlie never thought of it. He is a real good man, they all say, but rather touchy. So Flip (that's what they all call Mr. Marvell in Toc H and I hope I'm not presuming) went to see him and sorted it all out. And what's more he sent Charlie round to the Rectory afterwards. Funny that I never saw C. with the wind up so much as when he left our house. But they got on first-rate after a sticky start and the Rector has promised to come to a meeting of the group—that's what they have started here now—when it's a bit settled down. One up to my Charles, don't you think?

AT A MEETING OF THE DISTRICT TEAM.

DISTRICT SECRETARY : " Well, this is a pretty good turn out—there's only one of the Gobbleston representatives missing, John Leader, who's down with 'flu. First, I want to introduce Charlie Brick from Allswell—' Chas', I've slipped into calling him, because he signs himself that way. We always said we would have a seventh unit in the District and Allswell just stops an ugly gap in our line. As I told you the other week, Flip made the first contact, through a letter from H.Q., and then passed the buck to me. I blame myself for not getting in a day or two sooner, while Flip was in hospital. It might have saved a bit of a slip up, involving the Mayor and the Rector. (*Charlie grins*). I don't think any real harm's been done, but you simply can't start Toc H at a public meeting, though some of us have seen it tried before.

" So far they've held two regular meetings since we sanctioned the group on my evidence and Flip's, and I've been at both. They haven't found a room yet but there's time for that; at present they meet in Chas's house. They won't want to leave it, I think, because Mrs. Brick plays a very pretty bun at half-time, though

she can't be expected to go on doing it. The group has put up Chas for the District Team and, if I may make a guess, they'll send us his friend, Fred Burly, when they become a Branch. But that's looking much too far ahead.

"All I want to say now is that I've never sat in with a keener lot of probationers than Allswell. They're a young lot, except for Garnfer Eyebright, 70 but well worth the money. They don't know a lot yet, of course, but they *have* got the idea. Actually none of them are members yet, and I want to ask any of you who can come to join me at Allswell on Wednesday night when I'm going to take them their Rushlight and initiate Chas and Fred Burly; Walter Flex is their second sponsor. I hope you don't feel we are rushing it. Chas and Fred have been doing quite a lot of homework on the literature, the District Pilot has had a cosy evening with them both and reports 'All Clear', and I've watched them getting down to it with the five men they've collected. So I give you Allswell—and Chas! (Applause)

"Now let's get down to item 2—this tiresome business of the Long Boobly hut . . ."

#### To Sum Up

*In this first encounter you will note that Chas had his mind full of a war-time Services Club, the only bit of Toc H he had ever seen; that he very sensibly wrote to H.Q., and that the General Secretary (who is usually proper) passed him on at once to his Area, not forgetting to send him a pamphlet to bridge the gap for the moment.*

*The Area Secretary's delay was just bad luck. About his nose—is it impertinent to suppose that he has been overdoing his work lately? Meanwhile the District Secretary didn't pick up the thread by return of post—very likely he didn't get the news of Allswell for some days and was then too booked up to go that week. Meanwhile you can't blame so keen a recruit as Chas too much for trying to run before he could walk. It is no use attempting to collect the public before you have collected your team—and by then you will have found a better way, by works instead of words, to tell them what Toc H is.*

*Liaison with local padres wants watching from the first. Presumably Chas had talked to his own minister, though this doesn't*

*appear in the correspondence, but it was not unnatural for him to forget the Rector, whom he didn't know. He has now surmounted the first ecclesiastical hurdle better than at one point seemed likely, but there will be more to come.*

*Mrs. Brick doesn't come into the story by accident: Toc H members' wives ought never to do that. Chas has tried her rather high but she has not failed him, and we shall expect her to take the stage again on her own account. Has the District Team moved too fast over recognising Allswell as a group and preparing to initiate its two prime movers without some automatic probation of, say, three or six or even (as some parts of the family used to insist) twelve months? Time will show this and a lot of other things.*

*In the meantime it may be worth a reader's while to check up details in the pamphlets Towards Toc H (6d.) and The Time has Come (6d.) He will find that the book of the words—on which, in any case, different Areas and individuals do not agree—has not been followed in all particulars. There is no harm in this, for Toc H, being, above all, human, uses all sorts of roads to arrive, and what really matters is that it should have a good idea of its destination and learn how to get there. As it is, you must count Allswell group as launched. Next month we shall get a glimpse of its teething troubles.*

BALBUS.

## Garden Notes

*Contributed to The Mark of Toc H South America, March, 1948, by a former member of Toc H (Women's Section) who has spent 20 years in a nursing home crippled by arthritis.*

My garden is now at its best, do come and see it. The double pneumonias are realy wonderful; I am very proud of my trailing phlebitis too, and the laryngitis and the deep purple quinsies are a joy to behold. The bed of asthmas and malarias is finer than ever and the dear little dropsies are all in bloom with the blue of the anthrax behind them. It took a bit of trouble to root out the creeping paralysis but the yellow jaundice in its place is really beautiful and the dark red sciatica next to it just completes the picture.

*This racy description of two men's job comes from the log of TORONTO BRANCH and will leave readers wishing success for their plans and looking forward to news of their fruition.*

## *Stage One Completed*

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THE JOBMMASTER was not very explicit. He wasn't sure what parish hall, and he couldn't guess the number of the boys. But they were there every Wednesday night, and their previous leader had left for some reason. The two of us would have complete charge of programme, and no one would interfere.

We accordingly found ourselves next Wednesday evening in the grimy hall of a downtown Toronto church. My comrade called the roll, multitudes of small boys, about fifteen of them, raced around, and I stood silently by to instruct in P.T. He retired in order not to distract attention, and I blew the whistle, whereupon the boys re-doubled their non-constructive energies. Then there ensued a five-minute period of trial in which they proceeded to destroy the piano and I gazed soberly up to a picture of Daniel being thrown to the lions. But they eventually exhausted themselves and came around to see if I had any interesting tricks. They still do.

On the whole, it's been lively. There was the boy who tried to exert influence with a fish-knife, and the one who arrived in sub-zero weather without gloves. After I was left alone with the group, I tried to set up a council, and officers were duly elected. They have not been seen since.

Of course there is considerable variety in the group. Being the overflow from the local Settlement, we can count on about eighty per cent. European stock and the rest either Negro or Japanese, the latter categories giving us most of our team leaders. The Anglican minister whose hall we use can never understand why we have no boys from the Anglican Church, as half of ours are Irish and Polish Roman Catholics and the other half a mixture of Hungarian Presbyterians, Welsh Baptists, Finnish Lutherans,

and ordinary 'We don't go to church' -ers. As yet there is no strict age limit, but it is rather inconvenient to have to accommodate a programme to the requirements of boys from seven to sixteen. And then there is the matter of numbers, which may vary from twenty-five down to half-a-dozen, with about four new faces each night and enough old ones to prevent discouragement. And every name must be remembered over a three month lapse, or the owner will depart insulted.

Yes, it's been worth while, although that night when they started a riot in the Public Baths was rather hectic. And they really didn't mean to follow a handball into the midst of the surpliced choir, which shouldn't have been in the hall anyway. Of course, we aren't going to stop where we are now. Thanks to the interest of some Toc H Rovers we are building on firmer ground—soon we shall carry the number of a long-defunct Scout group. Once that step is taken, we shall have initiated the terrors of the neighbourhood into the mysteries of peaceful self-government, with a world jamboree at every meeting.

### *A Job in Hong Kong*

A week or two ago we decided to take on another job and this is with the Street Sleepers Shelter Society. We promised to supply the men to staff the shelter on two evenings a week. As the name implies, the Society provides a shelter for those poor folk whose home is the pavement or a doorway (and there are many of these in Hong Kong, and to the Shelter come the aged and infirm, mothers with their babies tied on their backs, old beggar-men, shoe-shine boys and a motley crowd). They are given hot water, soap and a towel, receive first-aid treatment, tea to drink, and gunny-bags on which to sleep. It's all rather primitive, but to study some of their faces, one might think it was the Hong Kong Hotel in which they were spending the night. Although those that come to the shelter have nothing of this world's goods, yet they are remarkably happy and have always a cheery smile and a few words, although we can rarely understand them.

*Extract from letter received from Jim Stevens.*



*Youth visit a local utility undertaking.*

## Forward March—VI. County Youth Committees

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*Without an outline of the important work undertaken by County Youth Committees this survey of today's ideas and plans of the main Youth organisations would be incomplete. JOHN H. P. REA, to whom we are indebted for this article, is the Youth Organiser of the Croydon County Youth Committee.*

LOCAL YOUTH COMMITTEES were brought into being as a result of the then Board of Education Circular 1486 published in the autumn of 1939. It is true to say that—despite excellent Local Committees of National Voluntary Organisations which had been operating for a considerable time in some areas—this action on the part of the Government was one of the most outstanding events in the history of Youth Service. It is right and proper to realise at this stage that Youth Service did not begin because of this Circular: many non-statutory bodies had been engaged in Youth Service for very many years, whilst Local Education

Authorities had had considerable powers in this direction for twenty years. The significance of Circular 1486 lay in the directive, *i.e.*, Youth Welfare now became an obligation of Local Authorities; an obligation to strengthen the work being carried on by various non-statutory bodies and to develop, by direct provision, facilities for the leisure time activities of young people where they were non-existent or considered to be inadequate. Furthermore the Youth Committee was to be a sub-Committee of the Education Committee, with power to make recommendations relating to organisation, extension and—most important—financing of Youth Service in the area. In effect, the Youth Service became an integral part of the Education Service.

Well, how does it work? How does it strengthen the work of the non-statutory bodies? In what form is help provided?

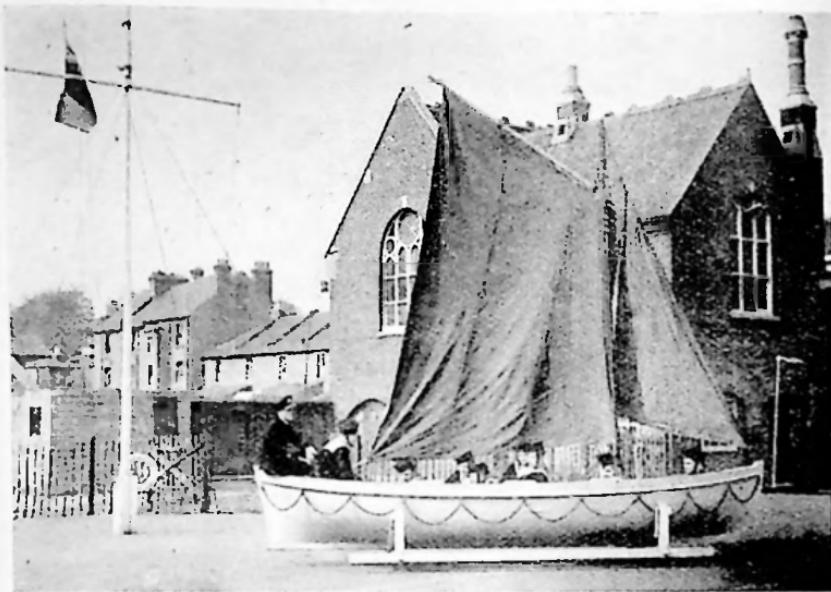
Assistance to established organisations—Scouts, Guides, Y.M.C.A., Y.W.C.A., Boys' Brigade, and others can be considered under five headings:—Finances; Accommodation; Equipment; Instructors; Miscellaneous.

Grant in aid is generally 75 to 80 per cent. of the total cost of the project and may be for general maintenance purposes, *e.g.*, proportion of the salary of a paid leader; for heating or cleaning premises, for hire of premises; or it may be in aid of capital expenditure, *e.g.*, purchase of headquarters, special equipment, like boat, tentage. The general principle is to give such grants of money as shall be necessary for the organisation to fulfil its programme, bearing in mind that whilst it is undesirable for a large proportion of the energy and programme of the organisation to be absorbed in efforts to raise funds, it is nevertheless essential for the well-being of the members that efforts shall be made within the organisation to provide some portion of the cost of equipment or projects. Possibly the most valuable form of financial aid to organisations is the provisions of grants or bursaries to leaders, helpers or senior members who wish to attend Summer Schools or Training Courses organised by their National Organisations or by bodies specialising in one particular activity, *e.g.*, physical training, music or drama. Courses such as these—especially residential ones—are of the greatest importance and grants made to students are indeed money well spent.



*Senior Members with the late Archbishop Temple at a Training Course.*

Accommodation, especially at the present time, is a particularly difficult problem. Youth Organisations can be divided into three groups under this heading: those fortunate few who own their premises; those who hire church halls and the like; those who make use of L.E.A. Schools. From the L.E.A. point of view the answer is to provide accommodation in schools free of charge to recognised Youth Groups. The Youth Organisation invariably looks upon this as a poor alternative to having its own accommodation, but the high costs of hiring accommodation makes the school hall or classroom the only practical proposition. It is as well to clear our minds on this matter! The school is not designed for the social activities of the adolescent; 'atmosphere', furnishing, equipment, are at the best scarcely to be borne and at the worst are likely to affront the dignity of the Club member to whom a return to school environment is a blow at his self respect.



*Training difficulties overcome with imagination and ability to improvise.*

The provision of equipment has raised particular problems. It has been a long established principle that equipment provided, in part at least, by the efforts of members of organisations is likely to be treated with greater care than would be the case when gear is forthcoming merely for the asking. In fact, the proper use and storage of equipment is one of the most valuable lessons to be learned from association with a youth group. Unfortunately, scarcity of supplies and prohibitive costs made bulk purchase and centralised distribution necessary if not entirely desirable. It has been the responsibility of the Education Committee through the officers of its Youth Committee, to find out the needs of individual Youth Groups, to make block application on their behalf and to arrange for distribution. Now that more sports equipment is available without permit, it may well be that organisations will prefer to choose for themselves and to apply for grant in aid when the total cost is considerable.

Some local authorities prefer to provide their own centres. In these cases the full cost is borne by them and membership generally entails compulsory attendance at one activity, usually associated with an evening institute.

The Local Youth Committee has an important part to play in the development of Further Education, particularly along informal lines. Apart from its specialist advisers in Drama, Art or Music, it needs a panel of instructors in a variety of activities, crafts, drama, the dance, physical activities, choral, discussions. These instructors have to be selected and, if necessary, they need instruction in the technique of the 'Club method', which might be described as the art of bringing informal young people into contact with formal activities.

It is impossible to catalogue the number of ways in which help and guidance may be provided, but they will certainly include the organisation of local training courses for leaders, helpers, and senior members; rallies, competitions, festivals, sports leagues, expeditions, camps, athletic and other championships, the production of brochures setting out the attractiveness of local youth organisations; provision of playing fields, swimming facilities, specialist coaches, film projectors—in short, any and everything which will enable our leaders to bring the young people in their charge to a fuller appreciation of their heritage and a better realisation of the responsibilities that citizenship involves.

JOHN H. P. REA.

## Bursar

WHEN our Central Executive held its usual monthly meeting in September, 1939, the war was but a few days old and its first duty was to face up to the 'national emergency'. As members know, it resolved to pledge all the resources of Toc H to serve fighting men. Very quickly it became clear that these resources would go a very little way to meet the need, and in February, 1940, it appointed W. J. HAWKEY, with the title of

'Bursar', to raise a War Services Fund from the general public. He had had long experience in raising money on a large scale for objects like the British Sailors Society and the League of Nations Union but this was rather different, and for some time John Hawkey confessed that Toc H had some ideas and methods that were not easy to understand. As he worked his way into our family life day by day at Headquarters and then gradually getting round the Areas to meet the staff and members, he came to know and to love what he knew and to wear our badge proudly. During the war years he launched several widespread appeals by post, but the method he preferred and relied upon was the personal interview in which his genial approach to old acquaintances and new won good friends for Toc H, as well as their donations to its War Services work. With the help of many local appeals, during his period of office over £400,000 came into the Fund, which is registered under the War Charities Act and not available for ordinary Toc H purposes; the Services work in Germany, the Middle East and Far East is still financed by it. In this immense piece of work the Bursar had two small rooms at Headquarters and the help of a staff of two—PAUL SLESSOR, Assistant Bursar (who retired in March, 1947, after many years of service in Toc H, but still remains the devoted Secretary of the Old House Committee) and Miss STONHILL. They share in his success.

And now John Hawkey retires from the Bursarship of Toc H, taking with him our thanks and our friendship. The bluff figure of this good Cornishman, rooted in Methodism, will be missed from many a family gathering but he has lost his heart to Toc H and remains a member. All of us will wish him well in any work he now undertakes.

With peace-time Toc H faces a different problem in putting the claims of its own work before the public and winning their support for it. John Hawkey has begun to open the way and now hands on to KENNETH A. ROGERS, who met Toc H as Bursar for the first time at the Central Council meeting. He has had good experience as Assistant Appeals Organiser for Guy's Hospital. We welcome him as a member of the staff and look forward to our active partnership with him.

*"With proud thanksgiving . . .  
We will remember them".*

## *The Elder Brethren*

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BOND.—On January 23, FRANK BOND, aged 63, a member of Withington, Manchester Branch. Elected 15.7.'30.

BOURDILLON.—On February 6, Sir BERNARD BOURDILLON, G.C.M.G., K.B.E., the Chairman of B.E.L.R.A.

BROOKS.—On January 30, HORACE ERNEST BROOKS, aged 38, lost with the air liner "Star Tiger" over the Atlantic, a member of Mill Hill Branch. Elected 10.6.'33.

COVERDALE.—On February 17, JOHN WILLIAM COVERDALE, aged 54, a member of Ormesby (Yorks) Branch. Elected 23.7.'43.

DAWSON.—On January 26, HENRY DAWSON, aged 58, a founder-member of Skipton Branch. Elected 23.7.'28.

EDWARDS.—On February 24, the Rev. G. P. EDWARDS, a member of Tenbury Wells group. Elected 28.2.'34.

FARRANCE.—On March 3, KENNETH ROBERT FARRANCE ('Bob'), aged 37, a member of West Moors Branch. Elected 10.10.'32.

FORD.—On February 26, GEORGE F. FORD, a member of Sherborne Branch. Elected 4.12.'35.

GRIFFITH.—On March 17, JOHN GRIFFITH, a member of Pwllheli Branch. Elected 29.9.'37.

HOOPER.—On January 23, WILLIAM ROBERT H. HOOPER, a member of Kingsbridge Branch. Elected 30.6.'34.

KNIGHT.—On February 27, URIAH KNIGHT, aged 66, a member of Brislington Branch. Elected 26.6.'33.

MORGAN.—On March 5, EDGAR NEWTON MORGAN ('Molly'), a member of Penge and Anerley group. Elected 2.9.'30.

MURIEL.—On March 4, the Rev. Prebendary HENRY LANGHAM MURIEL, aged 78. Previously Padre of Rugeley group. Elected 14.12.'32.

NORTHEND.—On January 6, FRANK WILLIAM NORTHEND, a member of Harehills (Leeds) Branch. Elected 24.8.'37.

PESTKOWSKI.—On Christmas Day, 1947, Professor LEO PESTOR DE PESTKOWSKI, aged 83, a member of Minster Branch, Kent. Elected 3.1.'36.

RICHARDS.—On February 17, JOSEPH HENRY RICHARDS, a member of Dartford Branch. Elected 6.10.'32.

SCORY.—JOSEPH JULIEN SCORY, a Belgian member. Elected 23.11.'36.

SHINN.—On March 26, LESLIE JAMES SHINN, aged 34, a member of Ilford Branch. Elected 9.1.'35.

SMITH.—On March 12, ANGUS DALRYMPLE SMITH, F.R.C.S., aged 46, a Builder of Richmond (Yorks) Branch.

THOMAS.—On January 23, HENRY THOMAS, a member of Newquay Branch. Elected 25.3.'39.

VARDY.—On March 4, JOHN ERIC VARDY, aged 31, a member of Preston (Lancs.) Branch. Elected 10.5.'35.

## Memorandum

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*During his visit to America, TUBBY secured twenty tons of steel towards the rebuilding of All Hallows. He sends this copy of an inter-departmental Memorandum tersely telling of difficulties encountered and overcome.*

*(Which might well be entitled "Why Purchasing Agents and Traffic Managers Grow Grey Hats."*

From: MR. MANN

To: MR. BECKER

We were asked in the middle of November to obtain twenty tons of reinforcing steel rod for the rebuilding of the All Hallows Church, which was bombed out in England. Here is the diary of the extraordinary measures involved in obtaining this material.

Nov. 21st—Placed order for twenty tons reinforcing rod.

Nov. 21st—Applied for licence of export.

Dec. 10th—Material in Boston.

Jan. 1st—Export licence received.

Jan. 6th—Shipping instructions for export received from New York at 3 p.m. for sailing on the 20th.

Jan. 6th—3.30 p.m.—Steel order cancelled by steel company on suspicion of black market. Car unloaded. Material put back in stock.

- Jan. 7th—Four long distance telephone calls to New York—four to Boston—to get reinstatement of order.
- Jan. 7th—They wouldn't.
- Jan. 8th—Two long distance telephone calls to New York—two to Boston—pleading for revision.
- Jan. 8th—They wouldn't.
- Jan. 12th—Personal visit to Boston office of steel mill to plead reinstatement.
- Jan. 12th—10 o'clock—They wouldn't.
- Jan. 12th—11 o'clock—They did.
- Jan. 12th—Three long distance telephone calls to New York and three local.
- Jan. 12th—12 o'clock—Order reinstated.
- Jan. 13th—Cutting specifications delivered. Shipment promised for January 15th.
- Jan. 14th—Car reloaded.
- Jan. 15th—Car held up on account of blizzard.
- Jan. 19th—Car held up by ice and snow.
- Jan. 20th—Missed the boat.
- Jan. 22nd—Car left for South Walpole.
- Jan. 30th—Car still frozen in.
- Jan. 30th—Shipping instructions received from New York to sailing Friday, February 13th.
- Feb. 3rd—Car frozen in Walpole.
- Feb. 4th—Personal visit to Walpole yard to examine car. Found full of snow and ice and steel.
- Feb. 6th—Car released. Sent to Boston.
- Feb. 6th—Insurance placed for below-deck shipping.
- Feb. 10th—Car refused by B. & A. Railroad. Broken down. Returned to New Haven.
- Feb. 10th—Four-day embargo placed by Government.
- Feb. 11th—Car repaired by New Haven.
- Feb. 12th—Car delivered to B. & A. Railroad.
- Feb. 12th—5 o'clock—Car to be shifted to pier.  
It wasn't.
- Feb. 12th—9 o'clock—Car to be shifted to pier, but it wasn't.
- Feb. 13th—10 o'clock—Called all known officials of New Haven and B. & A. Railroads and also Cunard Steamship Line relative to placement 9 o'clock Saturday morning.
- Feb. 14th—9 o'clock—It didn't.
- Feb. 14th—11 o'clock—It wouldn't.
- Feb. 14th—12 o'clock—Hold sealed. Missed the boat.
- Feb. 14th—2 o'clock—All hands got together made special trip, special handling, and loaded on boat and placed on deck, instead of in hold.
- Feb. 14th—4 o'clock—Insurance amended to cover increased rate of deck loading.
- Feb. 15th—Boat reported past Grave's light. Unless it sinks, it should arrive in England March 15th, after the expiration date of the import licence of March 8th.
- Feb. 15th—Long live the Church!

## *Multum in Parvo*

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- ¶ The Annual Meeting of the CENTRAL COUNCIL was held in Westminster on April 17 and 18. A report of the proceedings will be published in next month's JOURNAL.
- ¶ The election of CENTRAL COUNCILLORS for 1948-50 will be held from June onwards. Branches are asked to consider their candidates and to send nominations to their Area Secretary not later than October 15.
- ¶ TUBBY is expected home from the States in May. Padre GILBERT WILLIAMS has returned from Canada. JACK SHAW is now in New Zealand and "LEMON" (LESLIE LE MAITRE) is in Australia, travelling in the States of Victoria and Tasmania.
- ¶ The WEEK'S GOOD CAUSE appeal on behalf of TOC H will be broadcast by SIR FREDERICK BAIN on the B.B.C. Home Service Programme at 8.25 p.m. on Sunday, June 27.
- ¶ Those who remember our first Church of Scotland Padre and who know of his present work will have rejoiced to read that Mr. James Orr "bequeathed £25,000 to the Rev. Sir GEORGE MACLEOD, to be used at his sole discretion for the benefit of the IONA COMMUNITY of the Church of Scotland".
- ¶ I.V.S.P. (INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE FOR PEACE) continue their harvesting camps and are anxious to extend their services at week-ends and for a week or ten days as well as their ten- to twelve-week summer camps. Recently they repaired the premises of a Community Centre, a large dilapidated hut, and made a children's playground on the site of a blitzed church. They offer the voluntary services of their teams where work of this kind is held up through lack of labour. The address of their General Secretary, Derek Edwards, is 34, Broadway, Westminster, S.W.1.
- ¶ It is proposed to hold a REUNION in London early this autumn for members who have served either in INDIA or BURMA. Will members who would like to attend please communicate with either C. Harvey, 14 Mendip House, Globe Road, Bethnal Green, E.2, or G. Myles, 33 Cliveden Road, Wimbledon, S.W.19.

“No politics!” “Come, come!” From two press reports of meetings: “The political aspect of the work of the Trades Unions was touched upon, but as Toc H knows no politics, this was largely left in the background.” “At the third of the series of political talks organized by the local Toc H, an explanation of the programme of the —— Party was given by Mr. ——, who contested the division in the last general election.”

¶ SOME FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

MAY 6: Ascension Day. 7/9: Central Conference at Haywards Heath, Sussex. 22: Eastern London Area Rally at Dagenham. 29: North-Western Festival at Preston.

JUNE 5/6: Norfolk Festival at Norwich. 12: London Marks Garden Party at Putney. 13: Surrey and Sussex Area Festival at Farnham Castle. 18/20: Central Conference at Harrogate, Yorks. 19: Opening of Club for R.A.F. Halton at Wendover, Bucks. 26: Mark IX, Bristol, Silver Jubilee. 27: The B.B.C. Week's Good Cause Appeal for Toc H, 8.25 p.m.

JULY 3/10: The Royal Show at York. 11: Kent Area Festival at Canterbury.

SEPTEMBER 4: Northern Area Rally, Durham (not June 12).

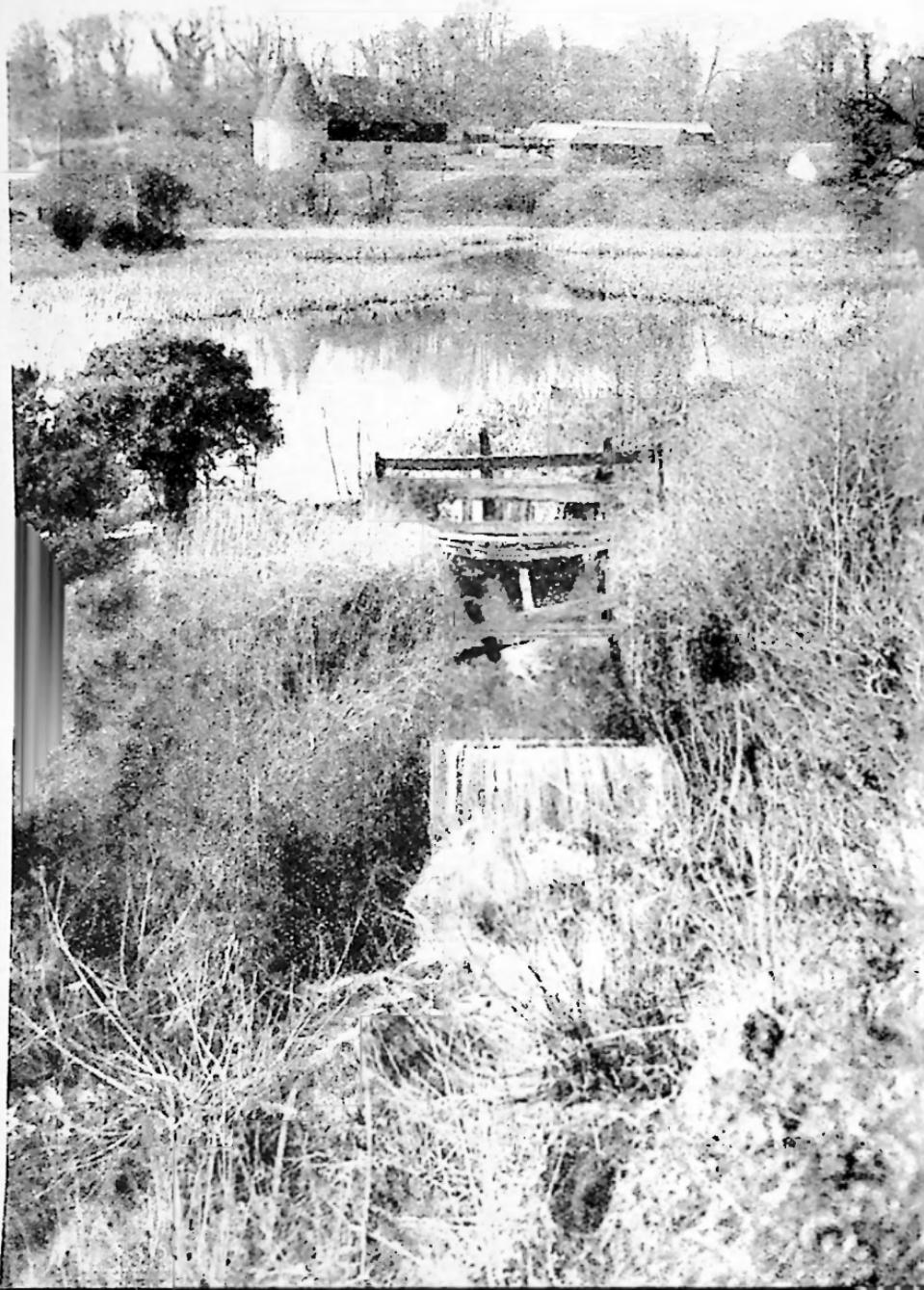
OCTOBER 21/26: Australian Festival in Sydney. 30: Women's Section Festival in London.

NOVEMBER 1: All Saints' Day. 6/7: Notts. and Derbys. Area Week-end at Swanwick.

DECEMBER 11/12: The Birthday Festival in London and the World Chain of Light.

¶ What the Dominions Say: CANADA: “It has been a joy to have Padre Gilbert Williams with us and an immense help. A thousand thanks for sparing him to us.” ADELAIDE, AUSTRALIA: “Jack Shaw and ‘Lemon’ are just what we want. I know they are going to be a tremendous help wherever they go. Please convey our deepest appreciation for these two splendid men.”

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA: “Renewed thanks for sending ‘Lemon’ to us. Both he and Jack made a tremendous impression and, if Victoria and Tasmania on the one hand and New Zealand on the other don't build Toc H to a worthy achievement in the next few years, the fault will be ours. They are both splendid in such entirely different ways.”



## *A Recantation*

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*This penetrating study of the artistry of Charles Chaplin in the film "Monsieur Verdoux", is written by Padre RUPERT BLISS, formerly a member of Toc H staff and now chaplain of the Polytechnic, London, W.1.*

I THINK I shall have to withdraw what I said a year ago when, in unburdening myself about "Clown", I suggested that Charlie Chaplin had fallen from the grace of true clownhood. He had yielded to glamour's temptation and no longer subordinated himself to the exacting terms of his art. I swore I would henceforth eschew him, but someone over-ruled me, and I found myself beholding "Monsieur Verdoux".

I may be mistaken, but I think I must own, against all my previous judgement, that Charlie's done it again. If this is true, then in his latter life he has opened up a new and exciting field in clownery, just as the artist Turner did more than a hundred years ago in the field of colour. In which case the 'all wrongness' of Charlie during the past few years is on a par with the 'all wrongness' of Turner whilst he was groping for a new form of artistic expression.

Granted this, what has Charlie succeeded in doing? He has succeeded in enlarging clownhood to cover an aspect of clownery which has never been covered before. The simplest form of clownery (though by no means the easiest), is the clowning of some particular character, like Henry VIII or Winston Churchill. Next comes a trade or profession, such as a plumber's or a parson's. Then you can take nations or social classes. It was in the latter category of course, that Charlie made his name—in his portrayal of the twentieth century lower middle class chap of the western world, bullied, poverty-stricken, yet brave—desperately keeping up appearances.

The last and most difficult of all categories is some abstract conception of man. So difficult is it that it is rarely attempted, and then only by writers. Therein lies the brilliancy of James

Thurber in his absurd representations of modern psychological man. It is into this category of clownery that I believe Charlie has moved. It is not psychological, but rather political and economic man that he so devastatingly portrays. Behind all the slickness and humour there is an acute comment upon the utter heartlessness and brutality of us all, when we act corporately as a political and economic group, towards those who are outside.



*Charlie in the film "Monsieur Verdoux."*

As an artist in dramatic movement he remains superb, yet I held my breath lest he might be saying through it all "Look, look at me!" But, no. The curtains of personality slid aside and the mirror-quality of true clownhood revealed itself untarnished, saying, "Look, look at these things to which you belong —sovereign nations, soft-currency areas and whatsamathing economic blocks! See the paltriness, pettiness and pitiableness of them all, in their lack of faith each to each, their readiness to cut each others' throats, and their preparedness to blow the members of their opposite number to smithereens, rather than settle their differences as sons of one Father".

I fancy there is a message in this film for any man or woman with eyes to see, and who feels the Christian Gospel on their pulses. Nearly all my Continental friends were much moved by it. I am told, however, that many big American industrialists did not appreciate it at all. Fancy that! RUPERT BLISS.

## *A Child in your Home?*

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Did you hear recently a speaker on the radio say "Charity will perish at home if it does not reach out for new interests"? Here is an appeal to the reader's 'charity' which embraces home itself.

The Children's Society have the care of nearly 5,000 deprived children. Many of these are already living with foster-parents, and are being given all the love and kindness of a good home. But many more such foster-homes are urgently needed, and there are 650 boys between the ages of three and eleven living in the Society's Homes who would benefit enormously if only they could be brought up in the happy intimacy of family life. In addition there are, at the moment, seventy children on the waiting-list—children who for some reason cannot remain in their homes or with their own parents, and who are urgently needing the Society's help. Until foster-homes can be found for some of the children already receiving care, those waiting cannot be accepted into the Society's Homes.

By becoming a foster-parent and giving a child a real home environment, which no Home with a capital 'H' can ever fully provide, can you help the Children's Society in turn to offer hope and security to one of those sad 'cases' still awaiting admission? In countless households these children have already brought warmth and happiness, and the joy of watching their happy and normal development, into the lives of their foster-parents.

Is it possible from amongst JOURNAL readers to find 250 homes for some of the boys who so badly need them? Many people have come forward with help for the girls and, at the moment, the great problem is to find homes for the boys. Who will accept responsibility for the upbringing, both material and spiritual, of a boy already showing great promise of becoming a useful member of society?

Each child comes equipped with a full outfit of clothing, and the Society's maintenance allowance is varied according to circumstances. To start the ball rolling if you think you may be able to help, please write direct to the Secretary, W. R. Vaughan, O.B.E., Children's Society, Old Town Hall, Kennington Road, London, S.E.11.

*Here 'AJAX' (Capt. A. Jackson Brown, M.B.E., of Weymouth Branch) raises an interesting question which will, we hope, lead to lively discussion.*

## *Toc H has 'Had it'*

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THE above was suggested as a subject for debate recently and I was given the task of proposing that "Toc H has had it". Whilst naturally I do not myself believe that this is the case, the arguments I put forward created such an interesting discussion that I felt it might be of some service to other units. It did mean that we got down to first principles and whilst, naturally, the proposition was lost, a really useful evening was spent.

Any expert on breeding would tell you that whilst sometimes a slight cross in the breed is good for the animal, deliberate

crossing often produces an entirely different kind of animal. If you cross a horse with an ass you get a mule. It may also be stated that this is true of Associations and if one Association is crossed with another the eventual result may be quite different from what was originally intended.

Toc H, as the name implies, is Talbot House and when it was recreated after the 1914-18 war, the men who rebuilt it were anxious to recapture all that was best in the Old House. This is made quite clear by the early membership cards. The aims then were three in number :—

- (1) The perpetuation of the Active Service atmosphere of fellowship.
- (2) The extension of this tradition of helpfulness to the younger generation.
- (3) The continuance of the House spirit in service, thought and conduct.

The first aim does not need any amplification. Out of the second grew our desire to extend the Movement to the younger generation and out of the third aim was born Service, the Ceremony of Light, and the use of Family Prayers, because we realised that the spirit of the Upper Room in the Old House was the secret of our success. *That* is Talbot House or Toc H.

Men have tried to cross the breed ever since, sometimes with success, sometimes with failure. We crossed the breed with the Churches. Often we gained, but at times it completely changed the whole nature of Toc H because units were run in Church halls and became a sort of Mens' Bible Class.

Other units were crossed with scores of social service activities. Excellent results were produced. Such units worked hard, but often were not real Toc H and the towns in which they existed looked upon Toc H as nothing more than a body of social workers. Other units crossed the breed with clubs and became purely social centres with whist drives and dances, all very carefully organised to raise funds for some good work or another, but these units quickly ceased to be Toc H.

Then the second World-War came and we crossed the breed with the Y.M.C.A. and did excellent work, but men who have only seen Toc H in a Services Club know little or nothing about what are our real aims in Peace, and are often lost because they don't like the cross-breed in their locality.

Now we have crossed the breed with Foreign Missions and are doing some good work in Germany, and some are suggesting that we change our present units to mixed units, forgetting that men and women are not naturally anxious to discuss their highest ideals with each other in a public meeting, nor are many of the subjects discussed in Toc H units common to both sexes.

My point is this—that there is a danger that we are forgetting the foundations and concentrating all our thoughts and efforts on the superstructure. One can say with some real justification that if you take all units that exist today and classify them according to these groups, plus all the opinions and ideas expressed by leaders and Headquarters, then in the eyes of the men who originally founded Toc H, we have got a darned good mule, but don't forget a mule is sterile—so you've 'had it'! Those of us who are anxious to preserve the real breed have got to point to the mule and say, "Toc H has had it and will continue to have had it until we get back to our original ideals." These ideals appealed to thousands after the first World War and in my opinion they will continue to appeal today.

Then once again we shall be changing men and leaving men to change the world. Then once again we shall be more concerned about building a family fellowship, so inexpensive that it will be within the means of the poorest, so inspiring and attractive in its fellowship that men will seek to join. It will not be something so over-organised or so planned that instead of units concentrating on creating this fellowship and changing men, they will spend far too much of their energies organising stunts and raising money to pay for stud-fees, veterinary surgeons and printed pedigrees.

The original breed may have been thought by some to be a strange sort of mongrel, but it was healthy, active, prolific in the production of its progeny, and a lovable creature. The present breed, whilst looking well-groomed and attractive, has a much lower birth-rate and shows certain signs of becoming a real mule. If you like mules, then when you want the next generation you must go back to the old horse and find another ass. Hence this plea for a return to first principles.

AJAX.

## *A Bag of Books*

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*The first six volumes in a new series of books published by the S.C.M. Press, under the general title of Viewpoints, cost 2s. 6d. each. Each one is well worth reading and in stiff covers, in size convenient for the pocket, is excellent value.*

*The Problem of Evil.* J. S. WHALE. A new edition of some broadcast talks which dealt with the Christian answer to this problem. They attracted considerable notice when first given, and provide the thinking man with the reflections of an honest mind and the most perplexing of all questions.

*Astrology and Prediction:* CLEMENT F. ROGERS. After describing the present strength of Superstition, Professor Rogers discusses the difference between Astrology and Astronomy and suggests a practical cure for the former. He then proceeds to review past and present attempts to predict the future and criticise the claims made by such movements as British Israelitism, Jehovah Witnesses, Second Adventism, etc.

*What Is The Bible?* S. H. HOOKE. "This book is an attempt to answer the questions of a generation which has seen the foundations of civilisation dissolving, and which is asking whether the Bible is destined to go down into the general mire, or whether it contains something which is indestructible and eternal". There are two extremely useful chapters on 'Record and Revelation' and 'inspiration and fraternity', which will help to clear the mind of any man who is trying to think out how they interact. The whole book is based on the conviction that God is an active God, and that the Bible is a record of His activity. Anyone who reads this book will then better understand the Bible.

*Scrutiny of Marxism:* J. N. CAMERON. Here is a fair and extremely clear criticism of the Marxist view of life, written in two chapters with the headings 'The Materialist Conception of History' and 'Marxism and Ethics'. These are followed by the final chapter 'The Christian Interpretation of History and

Polities'. Christianity not only points out the meaning of history by drawing attention to those events which are truly significant but also by what it has to say about human personality. 'In the end', says Mr. Cameron, 'the only question that matters is whether or not Christianity is true. Fortunately, in trying to settle this question, we are faced with a Person and not with an intellectual puzzle'. If we want to know the difference between Marxism and Christianity this book will help us.

*Body, Mind and Spirit*: PHILIP LEON. This is a book for the philosophically inclined, though Mr. Leon says that is is intended 'for readers in whom little or no acquaintance with philosophic literature is presupposed? The argument of the book moves to the conclusion that behind the Universe there is Mind and Spirit. 'God... is the Spirit of spirits to whom all other spirits owe their being as spirits—that is to say, their power and freedom as free organising and originating powers'. The final chapter, 'Verification by Experiment', is discussion on Prayer.

*Does Christianity Make Sense?* F. A. COCKIN. The Bishop of Bristol is well known for his broadcast talks, and this new book by him admirably succeeds in supplying an answer to the question. But before a man can make up his mind whether Christianity does make sense he must first discover what Christianity is. Here he will find a clear exposition. In the long run he must make up his mind for himself, and this book will help him to do it. Christianity not only makes sense, but the best sense of the world and man's place in it. Why and how, Bishop Cockin shows in most readable fashion. J. D.

### Plain Words

When a child of ten writes of a cow that "the head is for the purpose of growing horns and so that the mouth may be somewhere", he says just what he means, "but why" (asks the author who quotes him) "do we write when we are thirty 'in order to ensure that the mouth may be appropriately positioned environmentally'?" The language of government forms is getting us down, and if you will read *Plain Words* by Sir Ernest Gowers (H.M. Stationery Office, 2s.) you will see why his little book is a best seller.

## *A Naval Shore Experiment*

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BETWEEN THE TWO WARS, naval members felt the need for Toc H centres in the Home ports, and a few—mostly from the lower deck—financed a humble experiment at No. 13, Union Street, Portsea. It was a private venture on a very small scale, but it exceeded beyond expectation and rapidly became the centre of Toc H life in Portsmouth district.

The recent war saw its merging, in newer premises, with the Toc H Services Club, and much local concern was felt when the Club closed down in 1946. The original premises were uninhabitable through bomb damage, and for a while it seemed that 'No. 13' had had its day. Thanks, however, to the faith of local members and a few friends who remembered the solid achievements of the earlier venture, a house was bought privately and a new start made at Southsea.

Now at Gibraltar House, with E. A. Anderson, R.N., as Hon. Warden and Mrs. Teague as Housekeeper, the old atmosphere has been recaptured. A mixed-bag of hostellers, mainly naval, provides the setting against which two Toc H units and a Toc H (Women's Section) hold their weekly meetings. Once again it is being proved that men living together in community can become a centre for the spirit of service which will gradually make itself felt in a still wider community.

The Management Committee now feel that Toc H members from other parts of the country who plan to spend a holiday in Southsea may wish to see this venture at first hand, and this year it has been decided to reserve some accommodation for visitors, preferably men and women members or friends of Toc H. The terms are  $3\frac{1}{2}$  guineas weekly, with a reduction for children under fourteen years. The house is in the centre of Southsea, within a few minutes of the sea and close to bus routes, shops and entertainments. Accommodation is limited and early application should be made direct to the Hon. Warden, Gibraltar House, 21, Wimbledon Park Road, Southsea, Hants.



## *A Dawlish Development*

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THE SIXTH EDITION of Dawlish Toc H Minstrel Show recently completed a run of twelve performances, spread over a period of four months. This was a corporate job, all the necessary work from script writing and musical arrangement to stage lighting and scene-painting being done by the Branch members.

During this period many patients in hospitals and institutions have been entertained and, in addition, over £200 has been raised to help the funds of B.E.L.R.A., the Family Purse, etc.

Members found their work well repaid, especially when the curtain rose to reveal an audience of bed-ridden or crippled folk or when, as happened on one occasion, a ninety-six year old 'Grannie' insisted after the show on visiting their dressing-room to give personal thanks for a 'wonderful evening'.

Soon, they will again be setting out on the road that leads to an evening next November, when the words "on stage, chaps!" will send Dawlish Toc H Minstrels off on what we hope will be another successful season.